

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Albania

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1949

SUBJECT Sociological - Religion

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 17 Mar 1950

WHERE
PUBLISHED Tirana

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE
PUBLISHED 27 Nov 1949

LANGUAG Albanian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
 OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT NO.
 W. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION
 OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-
 HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Zeri i Popullit, No 236, 1949.PROPOSED LAW GUARANTEES FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The draft of the Decree Concerning the Religious Community includes the following provisions:

Article 1 -- In conformity with Article 16 of the Statute [Constitution] of the People's Republic of Albania, all citizens are guaranteed freedom of belief.

Article 2 -- In conformity with Article 16 of the Statute, the faiths and religious communities are separate from the state.

Article 3 -- In conformity with Article 16 of the Statute, the use of the church and of a faith for political purposes and the formation of political organizations on a religious basis are prohibited.

Article 4 -- In conformity with Article 13 of the Statute, all provocations of religious prejudice are forbidden.

Article 5 -- No one shall persecute anyone or restrict his civil rights or deprive him of anything to which he is entitled under the laws of the state, because of his own or any other faith or because he does not practice any faith. This also applies to religious functionaries of various faiths.

Article 6 -- The religious communities have freedom of organization and freedom to practice religious ceremonies and services freely in accordance with their dogmas, canons, and statutes, insofar as they do not conflict with the laws of the state, public order, and good taste.

Article 7 -- Religious communities, in order to organize and function, must be recognized by the state. Recognition is granted upon the approval of their constitution by the Presidium of the People's Kuvend (Assembly) upon the motion of the government.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL	
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI	
DISTRIBUTION			

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

When their constitution is approved, the religious communities and their local branches are regarded as juridical persons enjoying all the rights appertaining thereto in conformity with this decree and the other laws of the state.

The constitution of a religious community must regulate its system of organization, its tendency, and its administration. The regulations must be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Recognition of the religious communities may be revoked upon the decision of the Presidium, on the proposal of the government, when its activity has transgressed the laws of the state, public order, or good taste.

Article 9 -- Every religious community shall have a president who will be responsible to the state.

Liaison between the religious communities and the government is maintained through the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Article 10 -- The religious communities may build and open churches for their own use and public worship and may hold local ceremonies, service, and processions of their religion that do not conflict with the laws of the state and administrative regulations.

Article 11 -- The religious communities may convoke congresses, synods, conferences, and other general or local assemblies that do not conflict with the laws of the state and administrative regulations.

Article 12 -- In their activities, the religious communities must develop in their adherents sentiments of loyalty toward the People's Republic of Albania.

Article 13 -- The presidents of the religious communities, religious officials, and all persons in the service of religious communities must be Albanian citizens, loyal to the people and the state, respectable, and with full civil rights.

Appointments or dismissals of presidents of religious communities and sects, all grades of muftis and patriarchs, archbishops and bishops, archimandrite, and their immediate assistants, by the religious bodies concerned must be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Religious officials who have canonical contacts with foreign countries shall not practice without previous authorization from the Council of Ministers.

Article 14 -- The religious communities shall not exercise any kind of authority. They may, in conformity with their dogmas and canons, have disciplinary bodies to act only upon religious functionaries and other personnel in their service.

The organization and procedure of these disciplinary bodies are defined by the constitutions of the religious communities.

Disciplinary punishment is not valid if it conflicts with the laws of the state, public order, or good taste.

Article 15 -- Presidents of religious communities, religious officials, and all other functionaries in the service of various religious institutions who transgress the laws of the state, public order, and good taste, or who incite any antidemocratic activities, may, upon the proposal of the leadership of the Council of Ministers, be suspended or dismissed from their positions. Such action is to be taken by the religious body concerned immediately after its proposal by the

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

leadership of the Council of Ministers. In case the proper religious body fails to suspend or punish the religious functionary in question, he shall be removed from his position by administrative means.

Article 16 -- The religious communities shall raise income and make expenditures on the basis of their budgets, prepared in conformity with their constitutions.

When the religious communities are in need, the state may grant them material aid.

The religious communities shall submit their budgets to the Council of Ministers for approval.

The financial activities of the religious communities shall be controlled by the state financial authorities in the same manner as all social organizations in the country are controlled.

Article 17 -- The religious communities shall not open or support schools of general education. With the authorization of the Council of Ministers, they may open and support intermediate or advanced schools for training religious functionaries.

The organization and curriculum of the religious schools shall be defined, with pertinent regulations, and approved by the Council of Ministers.

The sending of young people to study in religious schools outside the country is permitted only upon authorization by the Council of Ministers.

Article 18 -- All bodies of religious communities are required to submit pastoral letters, circulars of a general nature, and all publications prepared by them to the Leadership of the Council of Ministers immediately, for their information.

The Council of Ministers may suspend announcements, printed matter, open letters, circulars, and other publications mentioned above if they conflict with the laws of the state, public order, or good taste.

Article 19 -- The central administrative authorities of religious communities must be registered with the leadership of the Council of Ministers. The administrative authorities of the local branches and religious sects must be registered with the local People's Councils. The members of the administrative bodies are to be listed by name.

Article 23 -- The formation of societies and organizations with religious and moral purposes, and publications and books for religious training shall comply with the general laws of the state and administrative regulations.

The activities of religious societies and organizations shall be on a democratic basis and serve the interests of the people and the state. Their officers must be loyal to the people and the state.

The education and organization of children and youth, in conformity with Article 28 of the Albanian Constitution, are a special interest of the state, and therefore religious communities and their officials shall take no action on such matters.

Article 24 -- Religious communities may not open hospitals, orphanages, or other institutions of a similar nature.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Institutions of this kind that may exist on the date at which this decree comes into effect shall be nationalized, after payment of compensation, together with all their property, movable and real, and will be administered by the Ministry of Health or the Administration of Social Welfare.

Article 25 -- The religious communities may have contacts with religious communities, institutes, organizations, and official persons that have their headquarters or residence outside Albania, only with the previous authorization of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Article 26 -- Religious communities and their branches (societies, religious missions, etc.) with headquarters outside Albania may not open branches (missions, philanthropic institutions, etc.) in Albania, and those in existence shall be closed within a month after this decree goes into effect.

Article 27 -- The religious communities may not accept material aid or gifts from a foreign country, of any kind or in any manner, whether they are in Albania or to be sent from abroad, without the authorization of the Council of Ministers.

Article 28 -- Religious communities that have property in foreign countries shall be represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs whenever they enter into agreements concerning this property. The ministry also will protect the religious interests of Albanian citizens in foreign countries.

Article 31 -- Any provocation of religious prejudice, by words, printed matter, or other means, is punishable by imprisonment for not more than a year and a fine of up to 10,000 lek.

Article 32 -- Any person who, by force or by intimidation, prevents a citizen or recognized religious community from the free practice of its religion or from performing religious ceremonies and services that do not conflict with the laws of the state, public order, or good taste, shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than one year.

The same penalty shall be exacted of any person who in the above manner compels any person to participate in religious ceremonies or services of any faith.

Article 33 -- Anyone who forms political organizations with a religious basis, or who orally, by means of printed matter, or otherwise and without the knowledge of the church spreads propaganda against the government and the people, shall be liable, in case his activity does not constitute a serious crime, to imprisonment for not more than one year.

Article 34 -- The presidents of religious communities and all their religious functionaries who take office without the approval prescribed by this decree, or who continue to practice after dismissal, shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than 3 years.

Article 35 -- The religious communities are required to apply to the Council of Ministers within 3 months after this decree becomes effective for approval of their constitutions, as provided by this decree.

Article 36 -- Within 2 months of the effective date of this decree, the administrative headquarters of the various religious communities are required to submit a list of names of all the religious functionaries in their communities to the leadership of the Council of Ministers.

Article 37. This decree is effective immediately.

- E N D -

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL